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Forty-sixth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 17 September 1991, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. de MARCO (Malta)
(Temporary President)

later: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)
(President)

- Opening of the forty-sixth session by the Temporary President, Chairman of the delegation of Malta
- Minute of silent prayer or meditation
- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

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- Credentials of representatives to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly

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- Address by Mr. Arnold Rüütel, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Estonia

- Address by Mr. Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia

- Address by Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis, President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania

- Organization of work

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

ITEM 1 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

OPENING OF THE FORTY-SIXTH SESSION BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT, CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION OF MALTA

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I declare open the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

ITEM 2 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Before calling on representatives to observe a minute of silent prayer or meditation in accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure, I propose that as we do so we also observe the International Day of Peace, on this third Tuesday of September, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981, to be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.

The annual observance of the International Day of Peace provides us with a special occasion to reflect upon our progress towards peace over the past year and to contemplate the new and continuing challenges which now require our attention. We live in a time of rapid and unprecedented change. As we face the uncertainties of the future, let us join together at this forty-sixth session, in a common commitment to bring greater security and well-being to the people of this planet.

I now invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

ITEM 116 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/46/474)

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Before turning to the next item on our agenda, I should like, in keeping with the established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/46/474, which contains a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General in which he informs the Assembly that six Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

I should like to remind delegations that, under Article 19 of the Charter

"A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years."

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of that information?

It was so decided.

ITEM 3 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FORTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(a) APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Rule 28 of the rules of procedure provides that the General Assembly at the beginning of each session shall appoint, on the proposal of the President, a Credentials Committee consisting of nine members. Accordingly, it is proposed that, for the forty-sixth session, the

(The Temporary President)

Credentials Committee should consist of the following Member States: Belgium, Belize, Chile, China, Lesotho, Singapore, Togo, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

May I take it that the States I have mentioned are hereby nominated members of the Credentials Committee?

It was so decided.

ITEM 4 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I now invite members of the General Assembly to proceed to the election of the President of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

May I recall that, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 33/138, the President of the General Assembly at the forty-sixth session should be elected from an Asian State.

In that connection, I have received a communication, dated 13 September 1991, from the Chairman of the Asian Group informing me that his Group has decided to transmit to the General Assembly the candidatures of Mr. Abdalla Saleh Al-Ashtal of Yemen, Mr. Samir Shihabi of Saudi Arabia and Sir Michael Somare of Papua New Guinea.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

The ballot papers are now being distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write the name of the person and not the name of the country for whom they wish to vote. Ballot papers containing more than one name or containing only the name of the country will be declared invalid.

(The Temporary President)

At the invitation of the Temporary President, Mr. Breitenstein (Finland), Mr. Huaraka (Namibia), Mr. Munteanu (Romania) and Mr. Nandoe (Suriname) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11 a.m. and resumed at 11.25 a.m.

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	152
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	151
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	150
Required majority:	76
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Samir Shihabi (Saudi Arabia)	83
Sir Michael Somare (Papua New Guinea)	47
Mr. Abdalla Saleh Al-Ashtal (Yemen)	20

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Samir Shihabi was elected President of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Samir Shihabi and invite him to assume the presidency.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the President to the podium.

Mr. Shihabi took the Chair.

ADDRESS BY MR. SAMIR SHIHABI, PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to express my sincere thanks for the trust you have placed in me and for the honour you have bestowed on my country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I thank all who supported me for their confidence, and I hope that those who voted otherwise will extend to me the cooperation that will enable us all to discharge our duties in the best possible manner at this session, when the world is going through such a delicate and historic period in international relations.

I have the honour to express from this highest international rostrum to the custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, leader of its progress and guide of its wise and enlightened policy, sincerest congratulations for the great confidence expressed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its King, its Government and its people by the international community as represented by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

I also take pleasure in congratulating Professor Guido De Marco, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Malta, President of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, for his great and much appreciated efforts and for the outstanding role he played during his presidency.

I should also like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, for his indefatigable efforts in mobilizing the resources of the United Nations to realize the objectives of the Charter and to serve the international community; we wish him every success. I should also like to express our appreciation to his assistants and the agencies working with him for their great and valuable efforts.

(The President)

I should like to take this opportunity, when the General Assembly is about to vote on the admission of seven new Member States - the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia - to congratulate them and to wish them every success.

Forty-six years have elapsed in the life of the United Nations, years during which the Organization has passed through the tests of changing international policies and the increase in the number of regional and global problems. I do not know how the world scene would look today were the United Nations not in existence, active and effective - no matter how much we may differ on the degree of its effectiveness.

Over the past few years we have witnessed - as we continue to do today - a great relaxation in international relations, especially in those between the United States of America and the Soviet Union, and a positive transformation in the attitudes of most States in substituting a policy of cooperation for that of confrontation. We have also witnessed the effect of this relaxation on the increased effectiveness of the United Nations and on its ability to discipline international behaviour and to consolidate international cooperation. No doubt you all share with me the view that respect for the Charter and the application of its rules, by the United Nations and its organs, are the best guarantees for the future of the world, and that they are also the best panacea for the world's shortcomings and for its political, economic and social ills. The role which the United Nations, with all its agencies and organizations, plays in bringing together and channelling the energies of international cooperation to address human needs across political, social and economic barriers and limitations is a unique

(The President)

one. It is the hope of future generations of mankind that the world's political, security, economic, social, medical, environmental, cultural and scientific problems can be solved. Today, the United Nations represents the meeting-point of interests, ideals, rules, legislations and laws. It is the one great Organization qualified to formulate, on a global scale, far-reaching concepts for the hopes and aspirations for a better future and capable of working for their realization. It is a new stage in man's development, one that is henceforth indispensable.

Here, some facts that are basic and fundamental to future development should be pointed out. I should like to mention a few of them. We know that the number of least developed countries according to United Nations standards has greatly increased over the past two decades. We know that the per capita income in the least developed countries is below $300, while the per capita income in developed countries is $14,500. We know that the standard of living in Africa has declined to the level at which it stood in the 1960s and that the real income in Latin America is less today than it was in 1970. We know that 70 per cent of world production is consumed by 15 per cent of the world's population and that 23 per cent of the world's population earn 85 per cent of the world's income. We know that the expenditure of developing countries on debt servicing exceeds the total aid they receive. We know that one fifth of the population of the developing countries suffer from hunger every day, that 1.5 billion people lack basic health care, that a billion adults are still illiterate and that more than 14 million children in developing countries die every year before reaching the age of five. It is a stark picture of the imbalance in human society, which, if we do not deal with it urgently, will disrupt the balance in every field.

(The President)

Here in the General Assembly, this high-level gathering, diverse international cultures and different political, economic and social trends meet, and different abilities and capabilities compete and cooperate, driven by a single force and joined together by a single noble objective - the coordination of the machinery of survival and coexistence between the different States and nations.

As we set for ourselves short-range objectives within the context of the forty-sixth session, aimed at achieving a better future for all, we hope that in the not so distant future the United Nations will become a very effective melting-pot for the cultures of different nations and their diverse intellectual trends. Moreover, we hope that ordinary individuals will feel that the Organization is an influence on their daily lives and a guiding light for their future in addition to its larger role as a suitable framework for interaction between States and nations. We would thus be laying the foundation for a long-range endeavour.

In order to facilitate the achievement of these objectives, we need to evaluate the capabilities of the United Nations in its larger dimension and the functions of the Secretariat as the executive organ. Moreover, we should study ways and means of enabling it to meet these historic responsibilities and to fulfil them through this Assembly, to which the world looks each year with interest and hope.

While members have broad authority conferred upon them by the Charter of the United Nations, they also have a historic duty to support the General Assembly in playing its full role as a true representative of cooperation among all nations on the basis of sovereign equality and the sharing of responsibility.

(The President)

We are happy that the occupation of Kuwait has ended and that legitimacy and sovereignty have been restored to its Government and brotherly people. I would like to mention with appreciation the role of the United Nations in this great achievement and to wish the State of Kuwait, His Highness the Emir, the Government and the people of Kuwait progress and prosperity, peace and stability.

In view of the tragedy of Palestine and the question of the rights of the Palestinian people, the Organization has a commitment to help those people to exercise their rights fully in accordance with United Nations resolutions, the Charter and international law. The international community has to work for the implementation of these resolutions, inasmuch as the perpetuation of the problem of Palestine and that of the Middle East, for want of a solution based on justice, is a danger that should be considered by every thoughtful and responsible person.

The United Nations will continue to shoulder its responsibility towards the people of South Africa until they achieve their full rights on their land and all the effects and consequences of the apartheid regime are eliminated.

I hope that the efforts of the United Nations and the Secretary-General will be successful also in settling the other outstanding problems requiring an urgent solution. Such an achievement would strengthen the international legitimacy of the Organization.

Let us work together and open new horizons for continuous cooperation and fruitful endeavour. May the United Nations, its Secretariat and the different agencies become the main beneficiaries and benefactors of the historic transformation in international relations so that international law may become

(The President)

the framework through which global interests and aspirations will interact. We must ensure that, in the near future, the contemptible social barriers that we have condemned are eliminated, and we must support the serious endeavour to reduce the painful economic imbalance between individuals and nations so that per capita income in the North is no longer 18 times that of the South. We must ensure that North and South narrow this ever-widening gap, bearing in mind the distant future and the dangers of failing to address it. The race towards productive cooperation must replace the arms race, and must include the transfer of a large portion of arms expenditure to the fields of development and cooperation. Moreover, we must ensure that national and regional problems and issues that could not be solved in past decades are solved in conformity with a peace built upon justice and international law; that the peoples who suffered injustice and were deprived of their rights under international law now have an opportunity to exercise them; and that the United Nations and its Members fulfil their obligations to all concerned. We have recently witnessed how strong international cooperation founded on a sincere commitment to the Charter can help to achieve a harmonious world order.

I once again express my thanks to the members of the Assembly for the great confidence they have placed in me, and I affirm my determination to work seriously with them towards the achievement of our common objectives.

May peace be upon you.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Before I suspend the meeting, I should like to remind members that the 1st plenary meeting of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly will resume this afternoon at 3 p.m. so that we may proceed to the admission of new Member States. I will

(The President)

subsequently adjourn the 1st plenary meeting and proceed to chair the 1st meeting of each of the seven Main Committees for the purpose of electing their chairmen. Immediately afterwards, the 2nd plenary meeting will be convened for the election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.

The meeting was suspended at 11.50 a.m. and resumed at 3.15 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I want members to know that it is my intention to call all meetings to order promptly at the scheduled time. It had been my intention to resume this meeting at 3 p.m., and I was in the Chair at that hour. I appeal to members to be punctual.

ITEM 20 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

(a) APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (A/46/295, A/46/296, A/46/342, A/46/343, A/46/411, A/46/412, A/46/413)

(b) LETTERS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (A/46/354, A/46/355, A/46/356, A/46/460)

(c) DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/46/L.1 TO A/46/L.6)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In conformity with the procedure followed in the past, I should now like to invite the General Assembly to consider the positive recommendations by the Security Council for the admission to membership in the United Nations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania.

This special procedure has been employed previously in order to give States recommended by the Security Council for membership in the Organization the opportunity, if the General Assembly acts favourably on their requests, to participate from the outset in the work of the session.

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides to proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Security Council has recommended the admission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea (A/46/354). It has also recommended the admission of the Federated States of Micronesia (A/46/355) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (A/46/356). The Security Council has further recommended the admission of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania (A/46/460).

(The President)

The draft resolutions concerning the admission of these new Members are contained in documents A/46/L.1 to A/46/L.6.

In connection with draft resolution A/46/L.1 on the admission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea to membership in the United Nations, in addition to the countries listed in that document, the following countries have become sponsors: Angola, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Namibia, Nicaragua, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Yemen, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

In connection with draft resolution A/46/L.2 on the admission to membership in the United Nations of the Federated States of Micronesia, in addition to the countries listed in that document, the following countries have become sponsors: Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Chad, Cuba, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia and Zambia.

In connection with draft resolution A/46/L.3 on the admission to membership in the United Nations of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, in addition to the countries listed in that document, the following countries have become sponsors: Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Chad, Cuba, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia and Zambia.

In connection with draft resolutions A/46/L.4, A/46/L.5 and A/46/L.6 on the admission to membership in the United Nations of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania, respectively, in addition to the countries listed in those documents, the following countries

(The President)

have become sponsors: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Cuba, Egypt, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mongolia, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Vanuatu and Zambia.

We shall consider first draft resolution A/46/L.1 on the admission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.1 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.1 was adopted (resolution 46/1.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Korea to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of Korea was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall now consider draft resolution A/46/L.2 on the admission of the Federated States of Micronesia to membership in the United Nations.

(The President)

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.2 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.2 was adopted (resolution 46/2.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Federated States of Micronesia admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Federated States of Micronesia to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Federated States of Micronesia was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Next we shall consider draft resolution A/46/L.3 on the admission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.3 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.3 was adopted (resolution 46/3.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of the Marshall Islands admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall now consider draft resolution A/46/L.4, on the admission of the Republic of Estonia to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.4 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.4 was adopted (resolution 46/4).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Estonia admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Estonia to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of Estonia was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Yemen has added its name to the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/46/L.1 on the admission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea to membership in the United Nations.

We shall now consider draft resolution A/46/L.5, on the admission of the Republic of Latvia to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.5 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.5 was adopted (resolution 46/5).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Latvia admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Latvia to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of Latvia was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall now consider draft resolution A/46/L.6, on the admission of the Republic of Lithuania to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.6 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.6 was adopted (resolution 46/6).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Lithuania admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Lithuania to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of Lithuania was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I have the pleasure of welcoming the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania as Members of the United Nations. Their membership will enrich the United Nations and increase the universality of this world Organization. I congratulate them and I congratulate the United Nations on their new membership, and I wish them every success in building future peace.

I now call on Mr. Dámaso-Obiang Ndong, of Equatorial Guinea, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. NDONG (Equatorial Guinea) (interpretation from Spanish): It is a great honour and pleasure for me to be one of the first speakers to have the opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to preside over the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. Your election is a well-deserved

(Mr. Ndong, Equatorial Guinea)

tribute to your distinguished country, Saudi Arabia, which not only has enriched the work of the United Nations and its various bodies over the years but has also had a lasting and productive relationship with the African continent as a whole.

On behalf of the Group of African States I have the pleasure of extending our warmest congratulations also to the Governments and peoples of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania on their admission to membership in the United Nations. The admission of new members to the United Nations demonstrates the universal nature of our Organization as well as its wish to welcome all those that are prepared to make their contribution to promoting the objectives set out in the Charter.

Each of these new States has in a way already played a positive role in the framework of multilateral institutions, and their desire to belong to the United Nations reflects the positive assessment of United Nations activities worldwide. The admission of these States is also clear testimony to the fact that the international atmosphere has improved considerably. The events of this last decade of the twentieth century augur well for mankind in the twenty-first century.

(Mr. Ndong, Equatorial Guinea)

We Africans broadly share the joy of these new Members of the United Nations. Although Africa has the largest number of independent States admitted to the United Nations over the last decade, some States, such as Namibia, were admitted just last year. None the less, we anxiously await a positive outcome to the negotiations foreseen in South Africa. The return of a democratic South Africa free of apartheid will be one more victory for mankind.

The majority of African States have geographical and political characteristics similar to those of the new Members of the United Nations. Above all, we want understanding to prevail among all nations of the world and the achievements of mankind to be strengthened and preserved.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. KHARRAZI (Islamic Republic of Iran): At the outset, Sir, I should like to extend to you my congratulations on your election as President of the General Assembly. I am sure that with your experience and under your stewardship the current session of the Assembly will succeed in its deliberations.

On behalf of the States members of the Asian group, I have the honour to express our satisfaction at the admission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations. The new Members are entering our Organization at a time when the United Nations is playing a greater role in preserving international peace and security and when the efforts of the Organization and its Secretary-General in this regard are

(Mr. Kharrazi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

acknowledged and appreciated. We are confident that the new Members will contribute to the implementation of the principles set forth in the Charter and help the United Nations become more relevant in dealing with different challenges.

We congratulate the new Members and wish them every success in their new tasks and hope that in our common endeavours the United Nations can play a more active role in applying the rule of law in international relations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call now on the representative of Ukraine, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. OUDOVENKO (Ukraine): At the appropriate time the Chairman of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kravchuk, will extend to you, Sir, our congratulations and express our pleasure at your election to the presidency of the General Assembly. At this point, however, I would like personally to extend to you all my good wishes on your election. My delegation is convinced that your wealth of experience will enable you to provide excellent guidance to the Assembly in its future work.

At the same time I would like to pay a tribute to all the candidates who were running for this post.

As the current Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, I have the honour, on behalf of the States members of that Group, to extend our warmest congratulations to the Governments and peoples of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Lithuania on the occasion of the admission of those States to membership of the United Nations.

(Mr. Oudovenko, Ukraine)

I am confident that today, in admitting at one time seven new Members, the largest number since 1960, our Organization is experiencing an extraordinary and truly most fortunate event in its history. The admission of each Member has become possible thanks to the dramatic changes in international political relations over the last few years signalling the end of the cold war and confrontation. The arrival of new Members is fresh evidence of the universality of our Organization and of its desire to welcome all those who are prepared to contribute to the objectives set forth in the Charter. This is especially important today at a time when the United Nations is continuing to demonstrate its vitality and is playing a greater role in preserving international peace and security in the settlement of regional crises, both old and new, and in the search for answers to the global problems confronting mankind.

The countries on whose behalf I am speaking today feel profoundly gratified at the admission of the new Members. They may rest assured that the States of the Eastern European Group will build relations with them in the interest of the establishment of a democratic international order based on the purposes and principles of the United Nations. We wish those Members and their current and future representatives in the United Nations every success in our shared endeavours to achieve understanding and cooperation among all nations of the world and the preservation and development of the accomplishments of our civilization. We express our conviction that they will make an active contribution towards the attainment of those noble objectives.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call next on the representative of Guyana, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the representative of Guyana, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. INSANALLY (Guyana): As we inaugurate the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, I wish to convey to you, Mr. President, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, our warmest congratulations and good wishes on your election to the presidency. At the same time, I would like to place on record our deep appreciation of the great service rendered to this Organization by your predecessor in office, Mr. Guido De Marco, the Foreign Minister of Malta.

Although no astrologer myself, I venture to predict that your term of office will be highly successful. Certainly, there can be no better augury for you than the entry today of an illustrious pleiad of States into the international constellation. We have no doubt that they will provide fresh dynamism to the United Nations and impel it further towards its goal of universality of membership. The Assembly therefore cannot but benefit from their incorporation. Indeed, their adhesion at this historic time attests to the vitality and vibrancy of our Organization. Now, at the apogee of its prestige, the United Nations can truly be said to be the Parliament of man where full debate is allowed to flourish and wide consensus to form. With such increasing participation, it may now be expected to explore its full potential as a catalyst for the promotion of peace, security and development.

We are particularly pleased to witness the presence in our midst today of the two Koreas, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. Their simultaneous accession to this body reflects a clear disposition to peaceful coexistence and cooperation. This affinity will serve, we hope, to encourage dialogue and understanding as they both pursue the ultimate goal

(Mr. Insanally, Guyana)

of peaceful reunification. We commend them for the positive step which they have taken and urge them to make maximum use of this forum to strengthen their relations.

The end of their trusteeship arrangements now makes it possible for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to enjoy full membership of the Organization. Although limited in size, they will nevertheless prove, I am sure, that small is not only beautiful but possessed of many other virtues. We look forward to cooperating with them as they seek to assert their sovereignty and to enjoy the fruits of their newly found independence.

Finally, from the recent cataclysmic events in Europe, the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have emerged to claim membership as individual States. They too will undoubtedly bring new perspectives and ideas which will enrich our future deliberations and contribute to the fulfilment of our common objectives.

To the representatives of all those States who proudly take their seats among us today, we in the Latin American and Caribbean Group extend our hand in friendship and bid them welcome. We now invite them to join us in the task which we have collectively undertaken to build a better world not only for ourselves but also for succeeding generations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the representative of Malta, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. CAMILLERI (Malta): At the outset I should like to extend to you, Mr. President, my congratulations on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly. We find it a matter of great significance that through you Saudi Arabia, a prominent Member of the United Nations, is at the helm of our Organization at such an important juncture in its history.

On behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, it is with deep satisfaction and pleasure that I welcome the seven new Members that have just joined our Organization. The admission of new Members is always a special event for the United Nations. It marks a further step in the process of completing the universality of our Organization. It underlines the continuing appeal of the United Nations as the primary international forum in which the peoples of the world continue to place their aspirations for peace and cooperation. It is a reminder that, in spite of the many difficulties and divisions which prevail within the international community, the sense of shared common interests at the global level is also at work.

For States newly joining the United Nations family, the act of becoming Members constitutes an important assertion of their statehood. For three of the new Members joining today - the Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - the occasion has an added dimension. Over 50 years ago, these States were already full and respected members of the international community. In 1921, they were in fact admitted to the membership of the League of Nations. Their accession to membership of the United Nations today is therefore more of a return than a new admission - a welcome return that closes a sad and difficult chapter in their history. We rejoice in this event, as in the awareness that it reflects the changed environment in international relations, the passing away of an era of sterile and dangerous confrontation and the ushering in of a new order based on trust and cooperation.

(Mr. Camilleri, Malta)

The admission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia marks the successful completion of the tasks entrusted to the United Nations 44 years, when those two States first became a trust of our Organization. They now join an impressive number of small States Members of the United Nations. There was a time when doubts were raised about whether very small States could appropriately take a full place within the international community. These doubts have long been dispelled. Small States have shown that they can and do make a useful contribution to the process of international goodwill. At times they can even play a pioneering role, especially in the objective and disinterested promotion and pursuit of new ideas, which larger States, with much greater human and material resources, cannot always afford to undertake.

The decision of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and of the Republic of Korea to join the United Nations as separate Members constitutes a refreshing act of faith in the healing power of our Organization. Their trust that United Nations membership will contribute towards the process of national reconciliation and hoped-for reunification is, as past experience has shown, well placed.

The seven new Members join our Organization at a critical moment in its evolution. The transformed international order has provided new challenges and opportunities to the United Nations, some of which have already been successfully taken up. Yet there is also an awareness that the legacy of the past four decades has burdened our Organization with structures, attitudes and procedures that, in some important respects, act more as a hindrance than as a help to the process of collective deliberation and decision making. There is agreement that we must revitalize our Organization in order to enable it to fulfil its obligations as originally envisaged in the Charter.

(Mr. Camilleri, Malta)

However, the agreement in principle which exists over this objective has yet to be translated into practice, a task which, we hope, will begin to be accomplished during the session that has just opened. In welcoming the new Members, we do so in the assurance that they will bring with them a fresh contribution to our common endeavour in meeting this challenge.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the representative of the United States, who will speak as the representative of the host country.

Mr. PICKERING (United States of America): First, I would like to congratulate you most warmly, Mr. President, upon your election this morning. My delegation looks forward to working with you throughout this session of the General Assembly in the same spirit of close cooperation which has always characterized the relationship between our two States for many years.

We have in our midst today three new Member States from the European continent and four from East Asia and the Pacific. I would like to give a very warm welcome to the seven nations that have just become part of the United Nations family.

(Mr. Pickering, United States)

From East Asia, our close friend and ally the Republic of Korea, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, are joining us as new Members. The United States is pleased to have sponsored their admission into the United Nations, and believes that their presence will help increase stability and reduce tension in the Korean peninsula as well as throughout North-East Asia. It is the hope of the United States that the admission of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will foster continued dialogue and promote a process leading to the peaceful unification of Korea on terms agreeable to all Koreans.

It is with great satisfaction that we also welcome as new Members of the United Nations the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The successful transformation of these two young nations from United Nations Trust Territories to sovereign countries desirous and deserving of membership in the United Nations reaffirms the value of the United Nations. As the former United Nations Trustee for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the United States is particularly gratified by their acquisition of membership. We offer them our most sincere congratulations.

Lastly, and certainly marking a momentous occasion in the history of the United Nations, the United States is particularly pleased to join with the rest of the international community in welcoming Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania back into the family of fully independent nations. We in the United States never lost hope that the peoples of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania would succeed in rejoining the community of free nations. We never wavered in our commitment to them. We take this opportunity to affirm our continued commitment to working with the democratically elected Governments and the

(Mr. Pickering, United States)

peoples of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as they confront the many challenges that lie ahead of them.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I have the pleasure of inviting the First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr. Kang Sok Ju, to address the General Assembly.

Mr. KANG Sok Ju (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I should like to begin by conveying the respect and friendly greetings of the Government and the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly and the representatives of all States Members of the United Nations. On behalf of my delegation, I should like to offer our warm congratulations to Mr. Shamir Shihabi on his election as President of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

I should like to extend my wholehearted thanks to the representatives of all Member States for their sincere efforts in support of our membership in the United Nations, and also to those representatives who have just made congratulatory speeches welcoming our membership. We share with all other representatives our pleasure at the unanimous decision on our admission to United Nations membership.

I believe that the unanimous adoption of our application for membership in the United Nations is an indication of the keen attention paid by the international community to the Korean peninsula, and also of the shared desire of the Member States for friendship and harmony between all regions and countries in the world. It is at the same time an expression of what they expect of us because of this desire.

I think that our country's membership in the United Nations is really significant at this particular time, when the world's people expect more of

(Mr. Kang Sok Ju, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

the United Nations and, accordingly, when the need further to enhance the role of this Organization is felt more clearly than ever before. In recent years, the United Nations has achieved a number of tangible successes in its activities aimed at attaining world peace and security and promoting friendship and cooperation between nations.

Today, however, when the situation is changing rapidly and when the era in reality poses numerous tasks, the United Nations should further strengthen its role. Today, the international community is faced with an important task: to build a world that is free, fair and peaceful. In order to build the new world to which mankind aspires, it is necessary to abolish the unequal old international order in all fields of politics, economics and culture, and establish an equitable new international order. There are large and small countries in the world, but there cannot be major and minor countries; there are developed nations and less developed nations, but there cannot be nations destined to dominate other nations or nations destined to be dominated.

The United Nations should do whatever it can to fulfil its responsibilities and its role in establishing a new international order on the basis of the principles of mutual respect, non-interference in the affairs of other countries, equality and mutual benefit. I would like to assure you that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as a State Member of the United Nations, will remain faithful to the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, and will make its due contribution through its active participation in the activities of the United Nations.

(Mr. Kang Sok Ju, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

The foreign policy of the Government of our Republic, based on the most important ideals of independence, peace and friendship, is in accord with the purposes and ideals of the Charter. Our people have, through their daily lives, experienced the precious value of peace, unity and cooperation and, therefore, the principles and purposes of the United Nations also represent the aspirations of our people.

(Mr. Kang Sok Ju, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

The political philosophy of our State is the Juche idea, which demands that central consideration be given the human being in viewing everything and that everything be placed at the service of the human being. We take the Juche idea as the guiding principle in our State activities, and the socialism we have built up is a socialism centred on the human being under which everything is placed at the service of the people.

Our socialist society, which was chosen and built by our people themselves, enjoys their absolute support and trust. Our people are very proud of the fact that they have built socialism in their own style, and they are determined constantly to follow their road.

We consider that the unanimous support shown by United Nations Member States for the admission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations is the manifestation of their respect for the choice of our people

Today, our people are striving to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland. Korea's reunification is not only a question related to the destiny of our fellow countrymen, but also an urgent question that should be solved as early as possible in the interests of peace in Asia and in the rest of the world.

The Korean people are a homogeneous nation that has lived for generations on one and the same territory, with a time-honoured history, with excellent traditions of culture and with one language. Our national reunification is a question of relinking the artificially severed arteries of our nation and achieving national reconcliation.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express once again the firm intention of the Government of our Republic of join actively in United Nations

(Mr. Kang Sok Ju, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

activities for the sake of world peace and security by achieving peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula. We are convinced that although the North and South have joined the United Nations separately today, there will come a day when our nation will take a single seat at the United Nations through the united efforts of the Korean people and the cooperation of Member States.

I hope that Member States that value justice and democracy will pay deep attention to the reunification issue, which is directly related to the destiny of our nation, and will render active cooperation for its earliest solution.

With the firm conviction that our admission to the United Nations will open good prospects for a new start in the relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United Nations, I also hope that appropriate measures will be taken relevant to the settlement of past abnormal relations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now have the pleasure of inviting the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Mr. Lee Sang Ock, to address the Assembly.

Mr. LEE Sang Ock (Republic of Korea): On the occasion of the admission of the Republic of Korea to United Nations membership, I should like to express, on behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Korea, our sincere appreciation to all Member States of the United Nations. I should also like to extend my gratitude to you, Mr. President, and to the chairmen of the regional groups and the representative of the host country, for their warm words of welcome. My thanks go to the Government of India for its important role in initiating General Assembly resolution 46/1. Finally, I take this opportunity to pay a high tribute to the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, for his invaluable assistance.

(Mr. Lee Sang Ock, Republic of Korea)

This is a very meaningful day for the Korean people. The Republic of Korea, which came into existence under the auspices of the United Nations 43 years ago, is now entering a new era as a United Nations Member State. As our road has been a long and difficult one, we may well mark this occasion with special emotion.

Our decades-long effort to join the United Nations, which was begun with the establishment of our Government, fell victim to the confrontation and rivalry that pervaded the cold war. Inter-Korean confrontation often extended into United Nations forums. The principle of universality of the United Nations was also at times subjected to the caprices of the grim international political reality. But all of this can now be relegated to the past. Today, we begin anew.

The admission of the Republic of Korea comes at a time when the United Nations is playing a central role in the formation of a new international order and will definitely help to accelerate the ongoing process of global rapprochement. We heartily embrace the opportunity to join the United Nations at this important juncture in history and to undertake challenging new responsibilities as a United Nations Member State.

This occasion has been made even more special and significant by the admission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea simultaneously with our own. It gives both Koreas the opportunity to make constructive contributions to United Nations efforts to promote peace and common prosperity.

Furthermore, the parallel membership of both Koreas will certainly open a new chapter in inter-Korean relations by providing another important channel

(Mr. Lee Sang Ock, Republic of Korea)

for dialogue and exchanges. We sincerely hope that this day, coinciding as it does with the International Day of Peace, will mark a new beginning and a chance finally to remove the last vestiges of the cold war from the Korean peninsula. While we are joining the United Nations separately, we pledge in this august forum to make determined efforts to realize the peaceful unification of our divided land.

Although the internecine Korean War ended four decades ago, peace on the Korean peninsula remains elusive to this day. What prevails in our part of the world instead is an unstable state of armistice, which is neither war nor peace. Military confrontation between the South and the North remains unabated. It is for this reason that the Government of the Republic of Korea strives, first and foremost, to prevent the recurrence of war on our soil and to build in its place a solid and permanent peace structure.

(Mr. Lee Sang Ock, Republic of Korea)

It is commonly said that peace is indivisible. Indeed, peace on the Korean peninsula is inseparable from peace and security in North-East Asia and in the rest of the world. Now even the antiquated order in North-East Asia is no longer immune from the global trend towards reconciliation and reform, which has brought about the settlement of a number of regional conflicts in the world.

The solemn declaration of both Koreas to accept the obligations under the Charter attests to the fact that the cold war structure that has dominated the Korean peninsula for more than four decades is now undergoing fundamental changes. Our Northern Policy has enabled us to accelerate these processes through the normalization of our relations with many formerly socialist countries, and particularly by fostering improved relations with those countries neighbouring our own. The warm winds of reconciliation and cooperation will eventually melt away the icy wall of confrontation and distrust that separates the two parts of Korea.

My Government has consistently pursued a policy aimed at the amelioration of inter-Korean relations. In the Presidential Declaration of 7 July 1988, it offered its utmost cooperation to end the confrontational and unproductive diplomatic rivalry between South and North Korea, and proclaimed our willingness to cooperate with North Korea in the international arena in the interest of the Korean people as a whole. President Roh Tae Woo, in his address in this Hall on 18 October 1988, further set forth several forward-looking steps towards reconciliation and reunification on the Korean peninsula.

By joining the United Nations simultaneously, South and North Korea have now taken a giant first step forward. Confidence built through dialogue and

(Mr. Lee Sang Ock, Republic of Korea)

cooperation within the United Nations framework will certainly move us closer towards durable peace and eventual reunification. The United Nations will provide an excellent opportunity for us to make significant strides in these very challenging endeavours.

The United Nations holds special meaning for the Korean people. The Government of the Republic of Korea was created under United Nations auspices in 1948. At the outbreak of the tragic Korean War in 1950, the United Nations came to the aid of the Republic to defend its freedom and peace. The United Nations, furthermore, helped us to rebuild and rehabilitate our country from the ruins of war into a responsible member of the international community.

Our pursuit of friendly and cooperative relations with all nations of the world has led us to maintain diplomatic ties with more than 150 nations. Steady growth in economic and other sectors instils greater strength and viabililty in those relations. Now, the Republic of Korea has emerged as a significant member of the world community in politics, economics, trade, culture and in other fields. The economic success of Korea is attributable to our close links with the international community. This interdependence and the relationship of mutual cooperation are expected to be further consolidated by our admission to the United Nations.

The Republic of Korea is already playing an active part in numerous international organizations as a full member, including 15 United Nations specialized agencies. Our foreign policy is anchored on the purposes and principles of the United Nations. We respect the various resolutions of the Organization. Even while it was an observer, the Republic of Korea faithfully abided by the letter and spirit of the Charter, and contributed to United Nations activities. Now, as a full Member of this august world body, my

(Mr. Lee Sang Ock, Republic of Korea)

country is prepared to redouble its efforts to promote the noble objectives of the United Nations.

Over the past several decades, the Republic of Korea has overcome enormous difficulties and challenges to grow into a newly industrialized country with a liberal democracy and a market economy. Drawing on our past experience, we will make our humble contribution to the various important works of the United Nations, not only in the maintenance of international peace and security, including disarmament and arms control, but also in the areas of economic and social development, human rights, the environment, drugs and other global issues.

Once again, I wish to extend our most sincere appreciation to all the States Members of the United Nations that have supported and welcomed the admission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations. I also wish to welcome and congratulate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania on their admission to the Organization.

Let me conclude my remarks by reiterating our commitment to work closely with the United Nations in shaping a new world order in which freedom, equality, prosperity, justice and the rule of law prevail.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now take pleasure in inviting the Speaker of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, Mr. Jack Fritz, to address the Assembly.

Mr. FRITZ (Federated States of Micronesia): I consider it a very special honour, as part of my country's first official statement within this body, to express congratulations to you, Sir, on your election to the

(Mr. Fritz, Federated States of Micronesia)

presidency of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. I am confident that with your experience, and under your able leadership, you will guide us through the many difficult issues that will be taken up at this session for the betterment of mankind. May I also join the previous speakers in extending my congratulations to the other countries that have become Members of the United Nations on this day.

It is with a deep sense of accomplishment that I express, on behalf of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia, our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation for the action that has been taken here today concerning our country and, most especially, for the historic action taken by the General Assembly in admitting the Federated States of Micronesia to membership of this world Organization. Individual Members who have so graciously received our representatives during the past months will always have our special appreciation.

Of course, I must also recognize and thank the members of the Security Council, without whose favourable consideration our membership could not have been possible. Finally, the delegation of the United States, along with the delegations of all the Members which sponsored the draft resolution proposing my country's membership, will be inscribed with lasting gratitude in the historical annals of the Federated States of Micronesia.

(Mr. Fritz, Federated States of Micronesia)

Some 45 years ago, this world body was founded with the objective that the universal entity would eventually encompass all peace-loving peoples that accepted the responsibility for the preservation of international peace and security, irrespective of the size of their population, their military might or the level of their economic development. It is against that background and with a very deep sense of fulfilment that I speak in this Hall formally to accept the Assembly's decision on our membership, and to reaffirm our commitment to the principles of the United Nations.

For all the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, this occasion is one of great joy and deep emotion, since a long-cherished dream has at last become a reality. We are a young nation, but our process of political development and self-determination has involved long years of internal adjustment and preparation and of external effort. Even while our country was still in formation, membership of this Organization was seen as a goal because of our unqualified desire for peace and for the avoidance for all time of any further subjection to the ravages of armed conflict. Those, like ourselves, who have known suffering on account of wars they did not cause must have a special reverence for the United Nations system and a deep-seated desire to be a part of it.

We were grateful for the assistance extended to us by the United Nations under the Trusteeship System, but we were also impatient to have our own voice in the advancement of the principles of the United Nations Charter. Now, having reached that goal, we are even more determined than before to take on with greater confidence the responsibility that faces us.

(Mr. Fritz, Federated States of Micronesia)

In that connection, I gratefully acknowledge the kind words spoken by the President of the Security Council on the occasion of the Council's adoption of its resolution 703 (1991) recommending admission of my country to the United Nations. In his statement, the President said,

"The Federated States of Micronesia will make an outstanding contribution to the United Nations by bringing to it an innovative approach and a fresh perspective on world affairs, in order to promote changes in established practices, many of which, as all the Members of the Organization are aware, are in need of renewal". (S/PV.3002, p. 4)

The expectations of the Security Council, as articulated by its President in the passage I have just quoted, may be difficult to meet, but I am confident that the blending of fresh ideas with the experience of those who have performed with distinction in this body can bring about innovative approaches to present-day world problems.

For our part, as a modest start, we bring to this task a relatively fresh, but not inconsiderable, experience in dealing with the world community. Prior to this day, the Federated States of Micronesia had already opened formal relations with 23 countries; had become an active participant in Pacific regional affairs through the South Pacific Forum and other intergovernmental organizations; had secured membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization and the World Health Organization, specialized agencies of the United Nations; and had acceded to a number of important multilateral conventions such as the Vienna Convention on diplomatic and consular relations. Furthermore we have taken an active interest in certain

(Mr. Fritz, Federated States of Micronesia)

universal issues of critical importance to our islands and are participating actively, within the limits of our resources, in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a framework convention on climate change and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

We hope with the help of others here to learn the ways in which we can serve constructively. We pledge our energies in working with all members in advancing the principles of this Organization by putting into practice our deeply-held belief in the principles of the Organization, a belief that is also manifested in the preamble to the Constitution of my country. Those are principles which I believe can also be taken as expressing the spirit of the commitment we have now made to the Charter of this great Organization. In the words of our Constitution,

"We affirm our common wish to live together in peace and harmony, to preserve the heritage of the past and to protect the promise of the future. Our ancestors who made their home on these islands displaced no other people. We who remain wish no other home than this. Having known war, we hope for peace. Having been divided, we wish unity. Having been ruled, we seek freedom. We extend to all nations what we seek from them: peace, friendship, cooperation and love in our common humanity".

From this day, the spirit of universality at last embraces my people. We are humble, we are proud and we are truly grateful.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now have pleasure in inviting the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, His Excellency The Honourable Tom Kijiner, to address the Assembly.

Mr. KIJINER (Marshall Islands): I come here today to express the profound joy and appreciation of the Government and the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands upon the occasion of this, our symbolic acceptance into the family of nations and our incorporation into the world political system. We thank each and every one of the members of this great Assembly for granting us this recognition and for receiving us so warmly.

We extend our congratulations to the new President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Samir S. Shihabi, and wish him success in the performance of his demanding duties.

(Mr. Kijiner, Marshall Islands)

Today marks an occasion of the utmost importance in the history of my people. For centuries we have been denied control over our destiny. Our identity has been submerged; indeed, our very existence as a distinct member of the family of nations has been all but unknown to the greater world beyond the shores of our small and scattered islands.

During the last half century, when so many other nations were reasserting their national identities on the world scene, we emerged from the depths of destruction and despair as a battleground in the Second World War into the relative dignity of a ward of the Organization's trusteeship system. We owe much to the United Nations and to the United States of America which, as Administering Authority under the trusteeship, has encouraged us, helped us to build a modern society upon the foundations of democratic ideals and our own ancient traditions and culture and brought us to this day.

We are a country small in both size and population, poor in material resources, and remote from the rest of the world. We are reassured, comforted and uplifted by the willingness of the world community to breach the barrier of the thousands of miles of the Pacific Ocean to welcome us into the world community.

We, the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, wholeheartedly pledge our allegiance to the ideals and objectives of the United Nations Charter. We proudly take our place as a new Member and look forward with confidence to playing our role - together with the other Members - in promoting world peace, progress and understanding.

Lastly, we join fellow Members in working towards our own future prosperity and that of all the nations of the world.

ADDRESS BY MR. ARNOLD RÜÜTEL, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now hear an address by the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Estonia.

Mr. Arnold Rüütel, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Estonia, was escorted to the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I have the honour to welcome to the United Nations the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Estonia, Mr. Arnold Rüütel, and to invite him to address the Assembly.

Mr. RÜÜTEL (Estonia) (spoke in Estonian: English text furnished by the delegation): I should like to begin by addressing to you, Sir, my good wishes on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. I should like to thank you for your warm welcome and to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of the Security Council for their unanimous support of the admission of Estonia to membership of the United Nations. I should particularly like to thank the delegations of France and the United Kingdom, and all those that supported the draft resolution submitted on the admission of Estonia, as well as all those countries that supported our request for admission.

It is a pleasure for me to appear here before the United Nations representing a State that has once again become independent and which was once a full-fledged member of the League of Nations. I trust that now, having restored those ties to the international community, severed for us some 50 years ago, we shall once again help to build collective security in the world.

(Mr. Rüütel, Estonia)

Obviously, one question of concern is Estonia's relations with its neighbour, the Soviet Union. Let me assure all members that they will be absolutely friendly - and this is quite logical. We have been neighbours for a very long time. Soviet Russia was the first country to recognize Estonian independence in 1920. The re-recognition, if you will, of Estonia by the USSR allows us to rebuild relations in the spirit of mutual trust and equal partnership, based on normal, State-to-State relations. I should stress here that such relations depend very much on the development of democratic forces and traditions in Russia and the Soviet Union. Thus, we are especially interested in an economically and politically stable Soviet Union.

The issue of human rights is of primary concern to Estonians. Freedom and human rights are, after all, what my nation's struggle has been all about. Some Members of the United Nations have naturally expressed interest in how Estonia will respect the human rights of the large minority of non-Estonians who were brought into my country during the intervening period of non-independence. Here, I should like to state quite categorically that Estonia will continue in the same tradition of respect for the rights of its minorities as during the inter-war period, when Estonia's own constitutional guarantees of minority rights were considered exemplary by the League of Nations. That we faithfully follow those traditions is evidenced by the fact that in the Sovereignty Declaration of November 1988, our Parliament ratified the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I can guarantee that we shall be no less resolute in the defence of human rights now, and we invite United Nations participation in monitoring how Estonia guarantees those rights. Together with our neighbours, Latvia and Lithuania, we have just emerged from a 50-year-long period in which respect

(Mr. Rüütel, Estonia)

for human rights have been quite unsatisfactory. As our experience has sadly shown, some people's inadequate understanding of human rights can lead to a situation where, for example, the elimination of special privileges is called a violation of human rights. Disaffected or oppressed minorities, often encouraged by outside Powers, have long been a major source of international conflict. Thus, it can be seen that Estonia is resolutely in favour of strict observance of United Nations and international conventions in these matters.

(Mr. Rüütel, Estonia)

A third issue I should like to address here is that of security. Where does Estonia fit in the new world order? Let me start by saying that we welcome strong ties with all countries. The time of blocs is past, and we see no reason to align ourselves with one side or another, since there are no sides.

We are quite concerned about the large numbers of foreign troops currently on Estonian soil. We trust that, as was the case with Poland, Hungary, the former German Democratic Republic and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, these questions will be resolved quickly through negotiations. I hope that the international community will be actively involved in resolving this sensitive issue. We also hope that the continuing momentum towards disarmament in Europe will allow the Soviet Union to sign as quickly as possible an agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Estonian soil.

Let me say in closing that it is an honour for Estonia to be here, restored to its rightful place as a full-fledged member of the international community of nation-States.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Estonia for the statement he has just made, and for his kind words about me.

ADDRESS BY MR. ANATOLIJS GORBUNOVS, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now hear an address by the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia.

Mr. Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, was escorted to the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I have the honour to welcome to the United Nations the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, Mr. Anatolijs Gorbunovs, and to invite him to address the Assembly.

Mr. GORBUNOVS (Latvia) (spoke in Latvian; English text furnished by the delegation): Justice has triumphed. The world community has found the family members - Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia - it lost during the Second World War. We have returned from the war at last.

The former Member States of the League of Nations return to the edifice now known as the United Nations, and the world is now three nations richer. And the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, having given back freedom to the Baltic States, has itself become freer.

As is well known, on 24 August, on the third day after democracy had triumphed, the Republic of Latvia was recognized as an independent State by a decree of the President of Russia. An avalanche of international recognition followed this juridical act. Our friends throughout the world could express in terms of law what they had felt deep in their hearts.

We are grateful to all those nations that have facilitated the recognition of Latvia's independence and have not hesitated to re-establish diplomatic relations.

On 6 September Latvia was recognized as an independent State by the Soviet Union, thus - and this is of paramount importance - juridically declaring Latvia a subject of international law. There is still much to be negotiated concerning our bilateral relations. Not all the consequences of the criminal Stalin-Hitler pact have been eliminated in Latvia today; units of the armed forces of the Soviet Union are still illegally stationed on our

(Mr. Gorbunovs, Latvia)

territory, and many other issues, including the status of illegally confiscated property, must be resolved.

Having regained its independence, Latvia is taking up new responsibilities. At present, owing to the Russification policies pursued by the former regime, Latvians, one of the surviving Baltic nations, are on the verge of becoming a minority in their own homeland.

At the same time, the nation that now again possesses a State, with constitutionally and democratically elected powers, has to guarantee equal rights to all national minorities and individuals, irrespective of their ethnic origins and ideological convictions.

As to the actual situation, no one is to be blamed but the totalitarian regime once in power. Where is the solution to be sought? It can be reached only through democratic discussions and by developing and adopting just laws. Our motto is: Democratic goals can be reached only by democratic means.

Now Latvia needs moral, financial and economic support from the world community, so that we can set up infrastructures directed towards a free market economy. Let me assure the Assembly that, having organized our economic life and having integrated it into the international economic and cultural exchange, we shall not forget about our debts and obligations.

Latvia is a country that by God Himself has been granted the role of a gateway linking the East and West. In this geopolitical region of democracy, economy and humanitarian values connecting the East with the West, we are ready to take up new obligations and shoulder our responsibilities.

The people and the State of Latvia share a bitter historical experience which has taught us a great deal. Let this be our contribution to the experience of all mankind.

(Mr. Gorbunovs, Latvia)

The non-violent and democratic way of our nation towards independence has entitled Latvia to membership in the United Nations.

The duties and obligations that come with membership in the United Nations will be fulfilled by Latvia with respect to eternal moral and ethnic principles shared by us. The democratic traditions of Latvia between the two wars were rooted in those same principles to which the League of Nations adhered as well. Therefore, it is of symbolic importance to recall today that Latvia became a member of the League of Nations exactly 70 years ago, in September 1921.

Permit me to use this solemn occasion to congratulate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Estonia and the Republic of Lithuania on their admission to the United Nations, and to express the hope that, together with the other newly admitted States, Latvia now, having become a rightful member of the United Nations, will be firm in observing the democratic principles of this Organization and will offer its contribution to the realization of the sacred ideals of mankind.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia for the important statement he has just made.

ADDRESS BY MR. VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania.

Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis, President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, was escorted to the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I have the honour to welcome to the United Nations the President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis, and to invite him to address the Assembly.

Mr. LANDSBERGIS (Lithuania): Mr. President, I extend to you my warmest congratulations.

(spoke in Lithuanian; English text furnished by the delegation)

The independent States of the world which created and cultivated the United Nations have today accepted Lithuania into their family.

Lithuania is an age-old European nation ending its eighth century, a nation whose neighbours have twice crossed it off the map during the last two centuries. But today, like the mythical Phoenix, it is reborn out of the ashes. Lithuania is not only reborn literally out of the ashes and destruction of the Second World War, but it is also reborn from the suffering and struggles of its peoples, from their toil and faith.

(Mr. Landsbergis, Lithuania)

In what could we place our faith during these last decades, when brutal coercion and cynical pragmatism forced so many to believe in nothing at all in this world?

We believed in simple, or should I say, fundamental things: truth and justice. We believed that injury and injustice could last for years, decades or longer, but not for ever.

Although we saw delinquency and degeneration and watched while the lives and homelands of hundreds of thousands were stripped away, in our hearts there burned an unquenchable belief in ultimate justice. Many believe that such justice and indestructible good are attributes of God, but it may very well be the essence of the human heart, of the world and of the Being people have called God.

We live at a time and in a world where almost anything may be mocked. When the people of Lithuania held on to the belief that independence would be regained and then had the brashness to declare it, many smiled cynically, thinking that unless backed by tanks and missiles our right to independence was meaningless, that it was simply a piece of paper. The world looked like a very sad place, a place whose most powerful members thought that by tearing up the paper on which this right was inscribed the right itself would disappear.

It is good that not everyone thought this way and that Lithuania neither faltered nor fell into depression. Our belief in inherent rights and justice and our renunciation of fear and falsehood showed themselves to be stronger than tanks and missiles. Always with a freedom of spirit we were successful in delivering political freedom to our nation.

When threatened by force we would gather and sing; and when we went home we patiently laboured. We repudiated violence and did not submit to

(Mr. Landsbergis, Lithuania)

provocation. We accumulated a yet unknown political experience that we can now share; and in this experience there may be a lesson: if one person can lead a moral life, why cannot moral politics govern the world? If one can speak the truth, why cannot open truth govern politics?

The close of the second millenium, which is near according to the Christian calendar, ends the bloodiest and most perverse century. The greatest evil - the cult of hatred and falsehood, whose fundamental argument was violence - now retreats and falls apart. It is almost frightening to consider that now the truth of love emerges from that desert of violence.

I do not know if humanity's hope for peace is an illusion, but I would like to believe that the prophesies of the Apocalypse will not be fulfilled this time, that Cain will rest in peace; and I would like to believe that Lithuania helped bring us to this threshold of hope.

Allow me to draw an analogy from Lithuania's countryside. The beekeeper has a remarkable place in Lithuanian culture. Because he is harmless his bees do him no harm. When the beekeeper's guests arrive, if they too are harmless they will be left alone and offered honey at the table. I like to think of Lithuania today in such a way, as it once more emerges from seeming non-existence to welcome an enlightened world to its table.

One large family in one country, and a family of families in one small world - this is the kind of future we are determined to help shape.

We would like to extend nuclear-free zones and regions of special confidence, but our joy today is tempered still by a foreign military presence which entered our country in 1940 and for whose swift withdrawal we seek United Nations support.

(Mr. Landsbergis, Lithuania)

We have no feelings of hostility towards, or vengeance against, any of our neighbours. We are creating a democratic State in which there will be room for everyone and freedom for all, based not on the rights of individual nationalities but on the rights of humans, upon the rights of human dignity, not one's name, language or culture.

(spoke in English)

Such is Lithuania's responsibility to itself and to the community of nations, which we welcome with open arms.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania for the statement he has just made.

Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis, President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, was escorted from the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to announce that the flags of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will be raised at a ceremony that will take place in front of the Delegates' Entrance immediately after the adjournment of the 2nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly this afternoon.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): As announced this morning, immediately following this plenary meeting we shall hold consecutive meetings of the Main Committees for the purpose of electing their Chairmen, and thereafter the 2nd plenary meeting will be convened for the election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.